

IN THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended). A method of facilitating trading among a set of processes having respective owners, comprising:

automatically, via a computer, operating at least one of the processes according to an order processing methodology by

(a) retrieving a decision table having at least two rules specifying at least one of a discovery strategy and an order handling strategy, each rule having at least one condition and at least one action to be taken when the condition is satisfied, the at least one action selected by the owner of the process from the group comprising (i) generating an order, (ii) obtaining more information, and (iii) evaluating another rule in the decision table, and

(b) automatically evaluating whether the at least one condition for each of the rules is satisfied, and

for each of the rules having a satisfied condition, automatically, via a computer, configuring the at least one process to act on the at least one action.

2 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one process is a trading process.

3 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one process is a market process.

4 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition is based on order characteristics.

5 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one condition is based on market characteristics.

6 (original). The method of claim 5, wherein the decision table includes a holding tank for storing at least one order waiting for a market related event.

7 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically evaluating includes assigning a value to a parameter.

8 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically evaluating includes transferring to another rule.

9 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the rules also specifies a time for acting on its at least one action.

10 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one action in at least one of the rules is a wait operation.

11 (original). The method of claim 1, wherein the set of trading processes includes at least two market processes and at least two trading processes and is operative on a platform that enables the trading processes to communicate in a standardized manner.

12 (currently amended). A method of facilitating trading, comprising:
automatically, via a computer, retrieving, at an order handling process operated on behalf of a process owner that is one of a plurality of process owners, a decision table representing an order processing methodology, the decision table having at least two rules specifying at least one of a discovery strategy and an order handling strategy, each rule having at least one condition and at least one action to be taken when the condition is satisfied, the at least one action selected by the process owner from the group comprising (i) generating an order, (ii) obtaining more information, and (iii) evaluating another rule in the decision table, and

automatically, via a computer, applying, at the order handling process, the decision table to process an order when a specified event occurs.

13 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the order handling process is a trading process.

14 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the order handling process is a market process.

15 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one condition is based on order characteristics.

16 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one condition is based on market characteristics.

17 (original). The method of claim 16, wherein the decision table includes a holding tank for storing at least one order waiting for a market related event.

18 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the decision table includes, in at least one of a condition and an action of at least one of the rules, a nested decision table.

19 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the rules define a sequence of actions to be taken using explicit control instructions.

20 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one action is to request information from an order room.

21 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the at least one action is to transfer to another rule.

22 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the specified event is receiving of an order.

23 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the specified event is completing price discovery.

24 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the specified event is receiving a bid or offer relating to an order handled by the order handling process.

25 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the specified event is receiving notice of a price improvement opportunity.

26 (original). The method of claim 12, wherein the specified event is reporting execution of an order.